

REFERENCE TITLE: school districts; unification assistance

State of Arizona  
House of Representatives  
Forty-eighth Legislature  
Second Regular Session  
2008

## **HB 2799**

Introduced by  
Representative Schapira

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 15-912.01, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING LAWS 2005,  
CHAPTER 191, SECTION 4; RELATING TO SCHOOL DISTRICT UNIFICATION.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:  
2       Section 1. Section 15-912.01, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4           15-912.01. Unification assistance

5       A. New unified school districts formed after a subdivision and  
6 unification as provided in section 15-458, subsection G or section 15-459,  
7 subsection B, paragraph 5 or new unified school districts formed from a  
8 common school district and a high school district pursuant to section 15-448  
9 may budget for unification assistance as provided in subsection B of this  
10 section.

11       B. The eligible school district may increase the revenue control limit  
12 and the district support level for the first ~~year~~ THREE YEARS of operation by  
13 an amount determined as follows:

14           ~~1. Through December 31, 2006, five per cent of the revenue control  
15 limit.~~

16           ~~2. Beginning January 1, 2007, the amount of any transitional costs  
17 that are directly associated with routine formalities that are necessary as a  
18 result of unification such as changing of signs, letterhead, stationery and  
19 similar issues.~~

20           1. IN THE FIRST YEAR FOR WHICH A BUDGET IS COMPUTED, TEN PER CENT OF  
21 THE REVENUE CONTROL LIMIT.

22           2. IN THE SECOND YEAR FOR WHICH A BUDGET IS COMPUTED, SEVEN PER CENT  
23 OF THE REVENUE CONTROL LIMIT.

24           3. IN THE THIRD YEAR FOR WHICH A BUDGET IS COMPUTED, FOUR PER CENT OF  
25 THE REVENUE CONTROL LIMIT.

26       C. A school district which budgets for unification assistance pursuant  
27 to this section may not budget for consolidation assistance pursuant to  
28 section 15-912 during the ~~one~~ THREE year period for which the unification  
29 assistance is in effect PLUS AN ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER.

30       Sec. 2. Laws 2005, chapter 191, section 4 is amended to read:

31           Sec. 4. Unification approval; elections

32       A. Each county school superintendent in a county with a school  
33 district that is affected by the proposed school district unification plan  
34 submitted by the commission shall call an election of all qualified voters  
35 within the boundaries of the proposed unified school district to be held at  
36 the next general election to adopt the boundaries as proposed by the  
37 commission. The county school superintendent shall prepare a publicity  
38 pamphlet that shall be submitted to all registered voters in the affected  
39 school districts no later than thirty-five days before the election. The  
40 publicity pamphlet shall contain a complete description of the unification  
41 plan and the factors considered by the commission ~~pursuant to section 3,~~  
42 ~~subsection F of this act~~ and shall include any arguments in favor of the plan  
43 and any arguments in opposition to the plan submitted by members of the  
44 governing boards of the affected school districts or from any elector who  
45 wishes to submit such an argument. A copy of the publicity pamphlet shall be

1 submitted by the county school superintendent to the governor, the president  
2 of the senate and the speaker of the house of representatives. The cost of  
3 the election shall be paid by each affected school district in proportion to  
4 each district's registered voters to the total registered voters within the  
5 proposed unified district's boundary.

6 B. If the election pursuant to subsection A of this section is to  
7 create a unified district under the current boundaries of a common or high  
8 school district, the election ballot shall contain the following language:

9       Do you support the unification of the (insert name of  
10 school district affected), a political subdivision of the  
11 state of Arizona, to become a unified school district to provide  
12 instruction in preschool programs for pupils with disabilities  
13 and in kindergarten and grades one through twelve? Yes ( )  
14 No ( )

15       A yes vote shall have the effect of approving the  
16 unification of the \_\_\_\_\_ school district.

17       A no vote shall have the effect of denying the unification  
18 of the \_\_\_\_\_ school district.

19 C. If the election pursuant to subsection A of this section is to  
20 create a unified district that does not follow current boundaries of a common  
21 or high school district or if the unification is for more than one district  
22 affected, the election ballot shall contain the following language:

23       Do you support the unification of the (insert names of  
24 school districts affected), as political subdivisions of the  
25 state of Arizona, to become a unified school district to provide  
26 instruction in preschool programs for pupils with disabilities  
27 and in kindergarten and grades one through twelve? Yes ( )  
28 No ( )

29       A yes vote shall have the effect of approving the  
30 unification of the (insert names of school districts affected)  
31 into the (name of proposed unified school district).

32       A no vote shall have the effect of denying the unification  
33 of the (insert names of school districts affected) into the  
34 (name of proposed unified school district).

35 D. A majority of the qualified electors in each affected school  
36 district is required to approve the proposed unification plan. If the  
37 unification plan is approved, the unified school district will become  
38 operational at the beginning of the ~~next~~ fiscal year **THAT BEGINS AT LEAST**  
39 **NINETEEN MONTHS AFTER THE ELECTION RESULTS ARE CERTIFIED**. If any of the  
40 affected districts fail to approve the proposed unification plan, the plan is  
41 void. The commission may revise the original unification plan and resubmit  
42 the plan to the qualified electors of each affected school district. If a  
43 majority of the qualified electors in any one of the affected school  
44 districts fails to approve the unification plan, the school district shall  
45 not become part of a unified school district.